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German Press Impatience
Worries Adenauer

by Anne O'Hare McCormick

Bonn, April 17 -- Each passing day makes it increasingly clear that Germany must move. As the diplomats around the world pack their bags for Geneva, a visit here to the third of the major European capitals brings home a striking contrast.

London housewives dream of their dinner table spread when they achieve independence from meat rationing, while the diplomats endeavor to outguess the public's yearning for peace. In Paris perennial cynicism with all the regimes most citizens remember stifles interest in the conference that may determine the fate of France's Far Eastern empire. Officials at the Quai d'Orsay speculate as much about Premier Laniel's political life expectancy as about probable Communist Diplomatic tactics. The European Defense Community treaty remains gathering dust on the shelf.

The entire atmosphere in Bonn, as through most of West Germany, is one of action. Outside my hotel workers begin clambering over the rising superstructure of a new office building soon after dawn, and labor by floodlight well into the night. The politicians' equally energetic movements are breaking out from behind the Adenauer mask of stolidity viewed in the West.

The Chancellor's absence last month for his promotional visit to Turkey lifted the lid from the political cauldron. Leading members of the coalition began publicly expressing sentiments which previously had appeared only in the increasingly critical democratic press.

Influential journals in Munich, Hamburg, Frankfurt, and especially in the industrial capital of Dusseldorf have raised their voices more and more against the anomaly of the new Germany's economic and political stature unmatched by formal acceptance in the world's councils. Periodicals of many shades of opinion fostered the "full sovereignty" concept sufficiently for several fairly important Bundestag deputies to pick up the line in the Chancellor's absence. Impatience with French stalling on EDC grows in all quarters.

Here in Bonn, people who know Adenauer's attitude today agree that this European statesman's devotion to the goal of integrating the non-Soviet part of the continent is being sorely tested. As a party chieftain, he is

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fully conscious of the series of state elections coming in the next few months. The widespread press clamor for an advance in sovereignty for the Federal Republic cannot but harm his Christian Democrats, he fears. With his own party's prestige shaken, Adenauer would find the lesser members of his powerful coalition even more truculent than they appear today.

These development, Adenauer devises, constitute a moderate threat now. The threat may become serious when the press adds to its insistence for early gains in German sovereignty the impelling word "now."